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**BALTIMORE WOMAN SENTENCED IN SCHEME TO PASS
COUNTERFEIT CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS**

*Received Counterfeit Documents With a Face Value of \$1 Million to \$2.5 Million Sent from
Nigeria*

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Angela Heady, age 33, of Baltimore, today to eighteen months in prison followed by four years of supervised release for conspiracy to commit bank fraud, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Blake also ordered Heady to pay \$16,128.28 in restitution.

According to her guilty plea, from August 2007 through July 16, 2008, Heady had contact by telephone and internet with at least one person in Nigeria who sent counterfeit checks, money orders, and other financial instruments by mail and private package service to Heady at her residence. Heady accepted the deliveries, re-packaged most of the financial documents and sent them to others in the United States. Heady also used some of the counterfeit checks, money orders and counterfeit money to make purchases at businesses, to obtain cash and to purchase gift cards and merchandise which she used or sent to other conspirators.

Specifically, on August 16, 2007, Heady attempted to pass a counterfeit \$500 American Express traveler's check that she had received in a package from Nigeria to purchase merchandise at a store in the Annapolis mall. On June 25, 2008, she attempted to pass approximately \$10,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills that she had received in a package from Nigeria, at retail stores in Baltimore County and Baltimore City.

A number of packages of counterfeit instruments were intercepted by authorities before they could be delivered to Heady. These packages and others seized from Heady contained counterfeit checks and other financial instruments with a face value of between \$1,000,000 and \$2,500,000.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Baltimore County Police Department, Anne Arundel County Police Department, Howard County Police Department and the U.S. Secret Service for their investigative work and commended Assistant United States Attorney Richard C. Kay, who prosecuted the case.